

EL PASO HERALD

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No. 97

Setting a New Pace For Us

ARTESIA and Hope, N. M., are setting a splendid example for El Paso, and rather putting us to shame, by their action in undertaking to raise money to build a railroad connecting the two towns. The proposed railroad would naturally be one section of the long talked of short line from El Paso to the Pecos valley. In a few hours the little town of Hope—that was not even on the map a few years ago—succeeded in raising more money for this project than El Paso has succeeded in raising in the ten years that the scheme has been under discussion.

The basis of subscriptions for the proposed road is so much per acre on all the lands to be directly or indirectly benefited. If this ideal cooperative plan proves successful in this instance, these progressive communities of the Pecos basin will have set a forward pace that the people of this community will have great difficulty in catching up with.

Is it possible that the name has anything to do with it? Hope seems to believe that "faith without works is dead," but it is to be hoped that the name El Paso will not come to merit the traditional cowman's translation, "I pass."

J. F. Elliott has a four legged chicken on exhibition at the El Paso fair; it is understood that this variety will be bred especially for the boarding house trade.

Ten years without interest the farmers will have after the first crop year to repay to the government the cost of irrigation works. On any piece of producing land the tax will be small. Non-producing land cannot be held for speculative purposes.

Iowa's farm land values have increased by \$1,500,000,000 in the last decade, the present value being nearly \$3,000,000,000. This figure refers only to the lands, while the value of farm buildings has risen from \$240,000,000 to \$455,000,000. Practically all this increase is represented in the net surplus earnings or profits of the farmers, for farm loans have not tended to increase. The total acreage has slightly decreased, but the expenditures for labor have increased more than half, notwithstanding that the number of farm laborers is no larger than before. The increase represents increased wage rates.

El Paso is not alone in granting comparative immunity to murderers. In the last four years there have been 663 homicides in Chicago; in only two cases was capital punishment inflicted, 42 murderers were given life sentences, 88 were given sentences of varying terms of imprisonment, and the remainder were acquitted on trial, or their cases were never brought to trial. There are three times as many homicides in Texas as in Chicago in proportion to the population. There is not a state in the union that can compare with any European country in the strict enforcement of the laws against homicide. The homicide rate in the United States exceeds the rate in any other country that claims to be civilized.

An Expression Of Confidence

GOVERNMENT'S determination to construct the Elephant Butte dam and other irrigation works in this valley by "force account" instead of by contract is not only gratifying news to the people of this valley by reason of the year's time this system promises to save, but it is also a strong testimonial to the splendid administration of the reclamation service under its present director. "Force account" means that the government, as represented by the reclamation service engineers in the field, will buy its own material and employ its own men, carrying on the work of construction after the manner of any well organized big private business. Bids will be called for in all cases possible, in order to obtain the best prices on materials and supplies. The direction of the work, however, will be entirely in the hands of government engineers, and labor will be employed directly on government account.

Ever since this project was definitely decided upon, the engineers of the reclamation service have contended for the plan which has now been adopted. It has been well understood by the engineers that any contractor well posted in his line of work would hedge securely against any chance of losing money by reason of unforeseen conditions that might arise during construction; consequently the bids of responsible contractors would all be excessively high, providing everything went off smoothly without unlooked for interference, while the lower bids, especially of contracting firms not very strong financially, would represent a gamble on the part of the contractor that everything would go forward without interruption, and the arising of unforeseen conditions in such a case would mean the bankruptcy of the contractors and a long delay possibly of several years in resuming the work.

Under the plan now adopted, the government acting as the agent of the landowners who are to pay the final cost of the work, will be in position to take advantage of every possible saving all along the line, and if everything goes smoothly the landowners will get the benefit of cheaper construction and a considerable saving in time, while in case unforeseen obstacles arise, the government will be in better position to meet and overcome them in the most economical way than any contractor would be.

As a declaration of confidence in the present administration of the reclamation service the determination on the part of the government to leave the spending of nearly \$10,000,000 in the hands of the reclamation engineers is deeply gratifying to all who have watched the development and magnificent work of the service since it was organized eight years ago.

The Mormon exhibit from the Chihuahua colonies takes nearly all the best prizes in the horticultural department at the fair. A few incidents like this ought to wake our people up to what they are missing. There is absolutely no excuse for not developing and colonizing our valley lands now without waiting for the big dam to be completed.

The use of a few thousand more labels at the fair in the various exhibits would assist the understanding and add to the enjoyment of the people. In the special departments, like poultry, dogs, and mining, the exhibits are no doubt arranged all right for the benefit of specialists; but for the general public they are much less interesting and valuable than they would be if every exhibit were properly labeled with a few words of description.

The Rock Island (N. M.) Tribune heads a column of miscellaneous news in this way: "There are any number of good things here mentioned; they should interest and please the reader." Under the above heading the subheads include such items as, "Death of David B. Hill," "Senator Aldrich run down by an automobile," "Crippen sentenced to hang," "Destructive storms in Italy; Death lists exceeds 200." Such a department heading for such news certainly sounds blood-thirsty; did the moon shine red that night in Rock Island?

UNCLE WALT'S Denatured Poem

EACH day the peril hunters find some new and frightful bugaboo; it is not strange the public mind is often showing shades of blue. We're being robbed by ruthless hands, of all our rights we are bereft; and heartless plutocrats bands are preying on us right and left. They're stealing all our wood and coal, they've burglarized our warehouses; by day they put us in the hole and rob our chickenscoops by night. The druggists sell us poisoned dope, the grocers sell us wooden beans; alas! there is no ray of hope—for those who read the magazines! And still we seem to jog along, in quite an easy, well-fed way; we wouldn't know that things are wrong, but that we're told so every day. We seem to throw in three square meals, and have a place to seek repose; and when we need some extra wheels we do not have to pawn our clothes. So let the peril hunters scream, and write their hot and throbbing stuff; prosperity may be a dream, but while it lasts it's good enough.

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To Save Her Name

(By Jacques Carter).

ALL his life Leonard Parfitt had been given to indecision. He was undecided now, as he sat on the Quail National at Lucerne and looked across the blue waters of the lake to the jagged crest of Pilatus.

Should he direct his steps home to England, where April is always a doubtful quantity, or should he go to the Gothenburg to Italy, where spring was already a full realization?

Leonard resolved to do what no person of decisive mind ever does—to toss for it. The coin dropped to earth, and rolled—whether?

"Excuse me sir, but have you lost something?" The question came from a middle-aged man—the only other occupant of the seat—who had been quietly regarding Leonard's movements.

"If it's money you lost, we may as well look for it."

The man, who was fairly stout, went right down upon his knees, and felt in the narrow space between the woodwork of the seat and the ground.

In a moment he rose triumphant, the coin held between his forefinger and thumb.

Handing it to Leonard, he started vigorously brushing his trousers.

Leonard thanked him. He felt vexed, uncomfortable, reproved. For a man of character, and of obviously some importance, to have gone down on his hands and knees in the manner of a beggar—was almost humiliating.

"May I ask what knotty point you were deciding?" Leonard explained.

The stranger smiled, but it was not a sarcastic smile. He looked thoughtful. He was obviously studying Leonard, summing up his characteristics.

"I take it, then," he observed, "that really a straw would decide for you which way the wind blew?"

"It would."

"Would you decide to go back to England if, by so doing you might perform a small service for me?"

"Like a shot."

Again the stranger smiled. He liked the youthfulness of Leonard's reply. "The train is not due at Charing Cross till 3:35 in the afternoon. You will be tired then. My errand can wait till the following morning. If you will promise to execute it the first thing—"

"Gladly!"

The stranger felt in his pocket and produced a small parcel.

"Take this in your hand. It's quite light, isn't it? It will slip easily into the coat pocket you are now wearing. I shall be very much obliged if you will take it to London for me and deliver it in person, not later than the day after tomorrow, at the address shown on the label—Mr. Johnson, 8 Durham street, Strand."

"I shall be very pleased to fulfil this little commission for you."

No word was spoken, but the hand-clasp was a pledge of mutual confidence.

When the last stage of the journey was over, and Leonard found himself in a bedroom at the Charing Cross hotel, he heaved a sigh of relief. He would go to bed early tonight. He had slept badly during the long run from Bale to Boulogne, and he was sure that anxiety over that precious parcel was the cause.

But now he was on English soil in the heart of London, and the terror of customs, and of all other train brigands, was happily a thing of the past.

Determined to be relieved as soon as possible of his responsibility, Leonard started along the Strand directly after breakfast next morning, and eventually paused outside No. 8 Durham street.

It was a jeweler's shop. Now Leonard had been hoping against hope that it might not be a jeweler. Leonard crossed to the counter.

"I believe this is Mr. Johnson's?"

"Yes, sir."

"Is he in?"

"No, sir. He lives down in the country, and isn't home very early in the day. I expect him in about another 20 minutes. Will you come back, sir?"

"That will be all. I don't think I need, if you will kindly give him this package, will you?"

"Good morning, sir."

Leonard was soon out of the shop, breathing easily, his ordeal was over. He was free of his parcel and of responsibility, at least for the time being. He tripped lightly back to Charing Cross hotel.

Leonard's home was in the Midlands. Now that his commission in London had been successfully fulfilled there was no reason why he should not go straight down and see his people.

That afternoon and evening passed very agreeably. His mother and sisters made much of him, and listened with profound interest to the recital of his adventures in Switzerland.

In the morning, when the entranced circle was forced to disengage itself from household duties, Leonard sauntered forth to the station bookstall to get a London newspaper. Not that he expected anything of importance to have happened. To buy a daily paper was merely a matter of habit with him in this country. Abroad he sometimes never looked at a paper for weeks together. That had certainly been the case of late.

He opened the paper listlessly and started. What was this facing him in lead type?

"THE GREAT JEWEL ROBBERY. 'EXTRAORDINARY RECOVERY OF STOLEN DIAMOND NECKLACE. INTERVIEW WITH MR. JOHNSON, THE JEWELER."

The Herald's Daily Short Story

Clay Mann

crowded with customers, a diamond necklace valued at \$10,000 was stolen. The thief has not up to the present been traced, but yesterday the affair had a most extraordinary sequel.

"Shortly before 9:30 a. m. a young man called and left a small package addressed to Mr. Johnson. For a gentleman not having yet arrived at his place of business (the visitor was undoubtedly perfectly aware that Mr. Johnson was never to be seen at that hour), the parcel remained unopened until long after the young man had disappeared.

"In due course Mr. Johnson reached the shop, and on opening the parcel, was astonished beyond measure to find inside the diamond necklace, complete and intact."

Leonard sat down on a stile and pondered. Judging from appearances, that mysterious stranger at Lucerne had stolen the necklace and, overtaken by an extraordinary mood of penitence, had adopted an equally extraordinary method of restoring the stolen property.

What should he do? The common opinion would be that he should go direct to London and put the police in possession of all the facts that he knew. But was it incumbent upon him to do anything of this kind? For one thing, he hated the notoriety that would be his if he did so. For another, his story was so unusual that it might not be believed, and awkward circumstances might ensue for both himself and his people. And for another, Johnson was not a penny worse off for the robbery; indeed, he had secured from the queer trend of the case a most excellent and profitable advertisement.

Of course, the appeal of the "Daily Tatler," guardian of the interests of justice, was hard to withstand; but in the end Leonard brought himself to resist even that.

He tore the paper to shreds, threw the fragments over into an adjacent field, and resumed his walk home as if nothing in the world had happened. It was a year and a half later, and Leonard Parfitt found himself again in Switzerland—at Pontresina.

Now, up to the present, as you have probably guessed from no references thereto, Leonard had been heart whole. At Pontresina he found his fate in the person of one Olive—Olive Trevor Mann, the village bookbinder.

He climbed mountains together, and when they were tired of scaling the heights, they sat and chattered beneath the pines, with the squirrels scampering about them. And there, with the music of the Berma in their ears, Leonard opened his heart.

She stopped him halfway. He glanced around, but they were still alone, and he looked at her for an explanation.

"You really know so little about me," she said.

"I know, Olive, that you are the one woman in the one—"

"But I have deceived you—deceived everybody here. I have no right to the name Mann, and Trevor was only my mother's maiden name. I took that pseudonym because I didn't want my real name known. I want you to know my proper name at once when I tell you it. It's Olive Merridew."

"You're Olive Merridew, the singer?"

"Yes!" She felt that she must talk lightly or shriek. "And you never suspected that I had the least bit of a voice? You haven't sung a note here, not even to myself. You don't know what a terrible time I have been having lately in London. It was bad enough when I was in comic opera, but when they promoted me to grand opera, and I was asked to sing, it was quite a terrible thing. When I was run down at the end of the season, and was recommended to come here for my nerves, I resolved to shed my identity entirely for the time being. It was easier than you might expect, for luckily I did you? Haven't sung a note here, not even to myself. You don't know what a terrible time I have been having lately in London. It was bad enough when I was in comic opera, but when they promoted me to grand opera, and I was asked to sing, it was quite a terrible thing. 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